

NJCCR NEWS

FOR RELEASE: **To be released May 8, 2007**

CONTACT: Michael Toleno (609) 631-4747

TRENTON, NJ – Research funded by the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) is four times more likely to attract major national research grants than the average applicant across the country, according to a new report.

The report by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Public Policy at Rutgers University showed that the NJCCR's grant recipients leveraged more than \$10 in national research dollars for every state dollar it awards.

"The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research has demonstrated that it's a very sound investment for the State," said Anna Marie Skalka, Ph.D., Chairwoman of the NJCCR, Director, Institute for Cancer Research, Fox Chase Cancer Center and a resident of Princeton. "These results are even better than we imagined."

The NJCCR's highly competitive grant and fellowship program, which relies upon systematic scientific peer review, assures that state monies for cancer research are awarded to those programs and scientists that offer the greatest potential for success. Training fellowships contribute to the development of a technically skilled workforce that adds substantial benefit to research laboratories across the state.

"The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research is a remarkable asset for this state," Shirley M. Tilghman, PhD, President of Princeton University said. "It has not only launched the careers of dozens of young scientists but also primed the pump for substantial new investments by the National Institutes of Health in the state, investments that create new jobs."

Professor Dona Schneider from the Bloustein School oversaw the independent and rigorous evaluation of the NJCCR operations at the request of the Commission members. "These findings demonstrate the clear and significant role that the NJCCR plays in enhancing cancer research in New Jersey," stated Dr. Schneider.

The report indicates that New Jersey scientists use the data and knowledge gained from their NJCCR seed grants to strengthen proposals to federal/national funding agencies. New investigators without a track record or grant history are especially successful with more than 8 in 10 getting first grants within four years of their first NJCCR awards. Nearly 70 percent of NJCCR postdoctoral fellows go on to establish successful careers in academia and industry.

State Health Commissioner Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D. said the report's positive findings are timely because the Commission on Rationalizing Healthcare Resources is currently assessing whether limited state health care dollars are being spent in a cost efficient manner. "It is great news that the NJCCR is maximizing limited state resources for the benefit of New Jersey residents who have cancer.

- MORE -

Page 2

<i>phone</i> (609) 631-4747	New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research
<i>fax</i> (609) 588-3441	3635 Quakerbridge Road, PO Box 369
	Trenton, NJ 06625-0369

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research was established in 1983 (Cancer Research Act of 1983 – P.L.83, Ch.6: T 52 91-u) to promote significant and original research in New Jersey into the causes, prevention, treatment and palliation of cancer and to serve as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services. Since its inception, the NJCCR has helped launch the careers of over 250 scientists and provided resources to train more than 100 fellows in cancer research. The evaluation, titled “Report of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research: Program Evaluation and Outcomes,” is available online at www.njccr.com.

#